

abroad took him to the former Soviet Union, Africa, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

The time he spent covering politics in Michigan and beyond placed him among the prestigious Who's Who in America list and served as valuable knowledge as he transitioned to Press Secretary for Michigan Governor William G. Miliken. After beginning with Governor Miliken in 1969, Mr. Weeks went on to serve as a member of the Governor's special council and then as his chief of staff.

The opportunity to work in the Miliken administration would serve as a foundation later for one of his greatest literary works. In the meantime, Mr. Weeks went on to be a Kennedy Fellow in 1981 attending Harvard University Institute of Politics. His research led him to conduct a study and subsequently write a published paper on outstanding governors of the 20th century.

Mr. Weeks then found his way back to his home state of Michigan when he took a job as the political columnist for the Detroit News in 1983. His written works on topics ranging from public affairs to political developments earned him the Outstanding Alumni Award of MSU's College of Communications Arts.

In his limited time, Mr. Weeks wrote several books on a range of topics close to his heart. These literary works included: *Stewards of the State: The Governors of Michigan* (1987; revised 1991), which won the Michigan Small Press "Book of the Year Award" and the achievement award from the Greater Michigan Foundation; *Sleeping Bear: Its Lore, Legends and First People* (1988; fifth printing in 2000); *Sleeping Bear: Yesterday and Today* (1990; expanded edition 2005) and *MEM-KA-WEH: Dawning of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians* (1992). He also co-authored *The Miliken Years: A Pictorial Reflection* (1988) and *A Handbook of African Affairs* (1964) and also contributed to Michigan: *Visions of our Past* (1987) and *The Royal Cookbook* (1969).

As if writing a column as a foremost expert on politics in the state of Michigan or authoring a number of books as a foremost expert on the history of our fascinating state weren't enough, Mr. Weeks also invested time in organizations committed to causes he cherishes. Mr. Weeks has served on the Board of Directors for the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University, the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Advisory Council, and on the planning committee for the annual observance of Michigan Week. Michigan Week, started by his father Don Weeks, is an event aimed at promoting pride throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, George Weeks and his wife Mollie, have also raised two wonderful children, Julie and Don, along their exciting and unique journey thus far in life. Now residing in Glen Arbor, Michigan, I understand that he plans to continue his writing by imparting his wisdom and knowledge through columns in small hometown papers in northern Michigan. It also seems fitting that he plans to do what George does best by turning his endless quest for knowledge on issues he's passionate about into written works that serve as learning tools for others.

Today, I join a long list of individuals, including the Michigan Congressional Delegation, who have had the opportunity to work with, learn from or even know Mr. George Weeks in saying "Thank You". Many of us have been on the other end of the phone line with

George waiting to see if his modest voice would invite a robust conversation about topics in which we shared alike thoughts or if he would ask a question that required careful and considerate thought in answering. Whether you have agreed with him or not on a topic he wrote, you respected his integrity and his ability to be fair in cracking though rhetoric to the truth of the matter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. George Weeks for his commitment to the value of a profession that has often been equated to the fourth branch of government, for his dedication to fair and balanced reporting, for the integrity he brings to this sometimes volatile political world and for his deep, genuine appreciation for the great state of Michigan. Thank you, George!

I certainly wish George Weeks and his wife Mollie the best in retirement and I look forward to our future conversations.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WEEKS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor George Weeks, who is retiring from his position as political columnist for the Detroit News.

In 1954, Mr. Weeks commenced his career with the Detroit News as a campus stringer at Michigan State University. After honorably serving 18 months in the United States Army, he worked for the United Press International bureaus in Lansing and Detroit; subsequently, in 1967 he became UPI's diplomatic correspondent in Washington D.C. Then, in 1969, he left journalism to serve as the press secretary and then chief of staff to Gov. William G. Milliken. After a stellar stint in public service, Mr. Weeks returned to journalism with the Detroit News as the paper's political columnist.

Mr. Weeks earned many honors and awards for his fair and balanced coverage of Michigan politics and, in 1996, he was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations and appreciation for the excellence and integrity Mr. Weeks has displayed throughout his distinguished career, and ask my colleagues to join in honoring him.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD A. RYAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Richard A. Ryan, who is retiring from his post at The Detroit News, after 40 years as a distinguished news reporter, 37 of those years a Washington correspondent.

Dick Ryan has spent most of his life in journalism, reporting for the Muskegon Chronicle and Toledo Blade before establishing his position at the Detroit News in 1966. Ryan was at the News for the tumultuous Watergate period, ending with the historic 1974 resignation of

President Richard Nixon and subsequent elevation of former Michigan Congressman Gerald Ford to the nation's highest office. Ryan watched as Ford was sworn in as the nation's 37th President, announcing the end of what he called "our long national nightmare."

In all, Dick Ryan covered the highs and lows of seven presidents, from Nixon to George W. Bush, traveling overseas with Ronald Reagan for his memorable speech in West Berlin, urging the tearing down of the Berlin Wall. He witnessed the first official visit of an Arab leader to Israel, watching a tenuous peace process initiated by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, whose nations had been at war for decades. He viewed the talks that culminated in the signing of a historic peace agreement between the two nations before the world at the White House.

In addition, Dick Ryan served as President of the Washington-based National Press Club in 2000, elected to that post by his peers in journalism. After a career that has placed him in the front row of some of this country's most fascinating events, he will enjoy his retirement enjoying the company of his five grandchildren, golf, travel, and the endless pursuit of every true journalist: writing.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Richard Ryan to be a person of great professionalism and absolute integrity. He has truly brought credit to a profession which he has served so well. The Michigan Congressional delegation will certainly miss the integrity, dedication and professionalism which drove Dick to always get the story right, and the people of Michigan will miss his insightful reporting from Washington. And I will miss Dick Ryan because not only is he a consummate professional journalist, he is a very dear personal friend.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD RYAN

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to my dear friend, Richard (Dick) Ryan, on the occasion of his retirement from the Detroit News after 40 years of distinguished service.

A Michigan native, Dick graduated from Wayne State University in 1963 with a major in journalism. Prior to joining the Detroit News in 1966, he worked at the Muskegon Chronicle and the Toledo Blade.

Over the span of his career, Dick has been an eyewitness to four decades of national politics, covering the White House, Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has covered seven presidents, reporting on such historical events as the Watergate scandal, Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel and President Reagan's famous "tear down this wall" speech in Berlin. Because of Dick's reporting skills, Detroiters were always well-informed on some of the most important events in the world.

Currently, Dick is president of the Gridiron Club, an organization of 65 Washington-based journalists. He was also the 2001 president of the National Press Club.

For all that Dick has done in Washington, he has never forgotten about where he is from